

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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GROWING FELLOWSHIP RELATIONS BETWEEN U.C.C JAPAN AND E.C.U. IN GERMANY

Since the arrival of Dr. Alfred Schmidt, who has been in Japan for the past few years giving time primarily to the development of the Evangelical Academy program in Japan and who has taken leadership in representing the Evangelical Church of Union in Germany (ECU) in conversations with the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCC), there have been growing fellowship relations between the ECU and the UCC. In November, 1959, the visit by Dr. E. Muller, of the ECU and director of the Evangelical Academy program in Germany, deepened interest and relations. At this time a number of meetings between Dr. Muller and the leaders of the UCC were arranged. In May and June of 1960 Dr. Isamu Omura visited Germany on his return to Japan from the U.S. While in Germany he was the guest of the ECU. As a result of this visit, or a follow-up of it, the ECU proposed to the UCC that they join in the exchange of theological and study materials; that visitors be commended to the other church; that Japan send theological students and pastors to Germany for study and experience in church life there; and that Dr. Schmidt be recognized by the UCC as the official Japan representative of the ECU.

The United Church of Christ in Japan has received the above proposals with interest. Dr. Schmidt has been recognized by the church here and brought greetings to the Eleventh General Assembly of the UCC in October, 1960. Theological and study materials have been sent. Rev. H. Saeki, though going under special foundation

support in Germany, will be in a sense the first student from the UCC according to the above proposal of the ECU. There are plans to send two pastors for observation study in addition to Rev. Saeki.

Also of interest in this connection is that the Rev. Wolfgang Wendorff, of the North German Mission has applied for and been granted the status of a Cooperating Missionary (Kyoryoku Senkyoshi) of the UCC, Japan. Rev. Wendorff has been working in Kyoto Kyoku for the past few years. A letter has gone from the UCC to the North German Mission initiating inquiries toward fellowship.

THE SECOND ASIAN BAPTIST YOUTH CONGRESS

Preparation is under way for the second Asian Baptist Youth Congress which will convene in Tokyo from July 16-23, at International Christian University. Delegates from thirteen Asian countries are expected to attend. Observers from New Zealand and Australia will also be present. The first Asian Baptist Youth Congress was held in Hong Kong in 1956 with a large delegation from Japan present. The present president is Mr. Masilamoni of India.

In early December, 1960, the Rev. Wickramasinghe, president of the Baptist College in Colombo, Ceylon, spent several days in Tokyo conferring with Baptist leaders here in making further preparations for the Congress. Mr. Wickramasinghe is chairman of the Youth Department for the Baptist World Alliance. At the time of his visit Mr. Wickramasinghe reported that interest was running high and that young people of all participating countries were initiating various projects to raise funds for travel expenses. The theme of the Congress is "The Gospel: The Power of God", and there will be many outstanding speakers from all parts of Asia to address the hundred delegates who will come from the thirteen representative countries and another hundred delegates from all over Japan.

The local committee consists of Mrs. Akiko Matsumura, program chairman, and the Rev. Ito and Akiba, general chairmen, and is being sponsored jointly by the Japan Remmei (Southern Baptist related) and the Japan Domei (American Baptist-related) groups in Japan.

PREPARATIONS FOR CONSULTATION ON NEW FORMS OF SERVICE FINALIZED

As reported previously (Dec. 1, 1960), Japan Church World Service has been given the entire responsibility for preparations for the Consultation on new forms of service under rapid social change. The second preparatory meeting was held on January 25th. It was decided at this meeting that the Consultation would be held at the Chon-so in Atami from noon March 29th to noon March 31st. Dr. M. M. Thomas and the Rev. Alan Brash of EACC will speak on "Impact of Rapid Social change and Churches' Social Responsibility" and "Christian Service" respectively. The speakers from Japan are Professor Masao Takenaka who will speak on "Theology of Diakonia" and Professor Mikio Sumiya who will speak on "Impact of Rapid Social Change and the Christian Responsibilities in Japan". Four group discussions will be composed which will take up the following subjects: Service in the Process of Social Betterment; Social Preservation; Human Development and Christian Prospect. The participants in this Consultation will be Christian social workers, ministers, professors and others who are interested. The results of the Consultations will be sent

to all concerned in Japan and will also serve as a report for the third Assembly of WCC scheduled to be held in New Delhi. Those who are interested in attending this Consultation may send in their application to JCWS. As the number of participants will be limited, it is requested that applications be sent in as soon as possible.

NEW PUBLICATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

From April the AVACO magazine will be discontinued. In its place AVACO will publish booklets, three times a year, each of which will provide AV educational notes and suggestions relating to four months of the NCC church school curriculum. In addition, AVACO will publish three or four small books a year on specific audio-visual aids, such as flannelgraph or puppets as well as basic AV curriculum for use in schools, seminaries and workshops. It is believed that this new policy will provide the most valuable part of the material included in the AVACO magazine at approximately half the cost and become a financially self-supporting rather than a subsidized operation. It is hoped, moreover, that the booklet produced will be valuable enough that English editions may be of use in other parts of the world.

A small, periodic, printed bulletin will keep the churches informed on other AVACO activities.

COOPERATION IN WORKSHOPS PROJECTED

In 1961, for the first-time, joint workshops for church school teachers are being planned by AVACO and the Church School Department of the NCC. Besides the four day national workshop held at Karuiawa, regional workshops in Osaka and on the islands of Kyushu and Hokkaido, are being planned as cooperative programs, utilizing leadership from both organizations and coordinating the programs centering around the implementation of the unified three year curriculum prepared by the Church School Department.

INTENSIFIED PRODUCTION OF KAMISHIBAI PLANNED

In January, the AVACO Board of Directors decided during the current year, as funds become available, to undertake the production of Christian kamishibai (paper play) on an intensive basis, with the goal eventually of issuing two sets per month. One of the reasons for undertaking this production is the great interest in the simple inexpensive visual aid throughout the world. The kamishibai, simple colored pictures printed on fifteen or more cards, can be used to tell any kind of story and costs less than a dollar. It is planned that the overseas edition will carry no printing on the fronts of the cards and only English on the back for ease of adaptation in other countries. Among other plans being considered is the supplying of narration of up to twenty minutes on plastic records, at a cost of approximately twenty-five cents per record.

DR. JOHN A. MACKAY ITINERARY

Dr. John A. MacKay, president emeritus of Princeton Seminary, a "dynamic Christian statesman who has given unique leadership to

the Ecumenical Movement", will visit Japan, March 3-12, as Lecturer for 1960-61 under the Joseph Cook Lectureship. In addition to the lectureship, provision has been made to have Dr. Mackay lecture in other areas. While in Tokyo, Dr. Mackay will be staying at the International House. His tentative schedule is as follows:

- March 5, Morning Service at Kamakura, Yukinoshita Church and open lecture in the evening at Tokyo, Fujimicho Church.
- March 6, Luncheon with NCC, Kyodan and IBC leaders and open lecture for Christian pastors at Christian Center (Kyobunkwan).
- March 7, Open lecture in the morning at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary.
- March 8, Leaves for Kyoto.
- March 9, Evening lecture at fifth Reformed Theological Conference.
- March 10, Open lecture at Osaka Christian Center under the auspices of the Doshisha Theological School.
- March 11, Return to Tokyo.
- March 12, Morning Services at Tokyo Union Church and dinner in the evening with Presbyterians.
- March 13, Leaves Japan.

Those interested in attending the Reformed Theological Conference and the three Cook Lectures he will be giving on Friday at the Osaka Christian Center should contact Rev. Woodward D. Morriss, 106 Asahimachi, Toyohashi-shi, for registrations and room reservations for the Reformed Theological Conference.

The theme of the conference on January 21-22, 1961, was "Jesus Christ - The Light of the World" and discussions and lecture topics centered on problems related to the Ecumenical Movement.

The main speakers were Prof. Takichi Kan of Rikyo University, who spoke on "The Biblical and Theological Basis for the Ecumenical Movement," and Prof. Akira Kobayashi of Meiji Gakuin, who addressed the conference on "The History of the Ecumenical Movement." Reports were also given by those who had attended various international youth leaders' conferences during the past year. The reports included the World Student Christian Federation meeting at Strasbourg, the Christian Endeavor Conference in Mexico, the World Assembly of Youth in Ghana, as well as information on Christian youth movements in Brazil.

The participants were divided into three sections, each section meeting three times during the day - morning, afternoon and evening - for discussion, after the lectures. The morning sessions focused on "Witness," the afternoon on "Service," and the evening on "Unity."

